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The Daily Gamecock, TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 2010

University of South Carolina, Office of Student Media

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WEATHER

Tuesday



Wednesday



Thursday



INSIDE SPORTS



USC faces Longwood

The Carolina softball team hopes to build on a strong weekend as it takes on the Lancers in a doubleheader at home.

See page 7

MIX



Battle of the Burritos

Moe's, Chipotle and Qdoba face off to see which eatery has the best prices, best options and the best burritos.

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VIEWPOINTS

The Cockblock

Does smoking pot in America contribute to the violence in Mexico? Pretending otherwise, especially without supporting facts, is nothing more than ignorance.



Ryan Quinn
Second-year print journalism student

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ONLINE EXCLUSIVE SPORTS



Baseball Preview

Sports Editor Chris Cox breaks down the upcoming baseball season with Cameron Wideman of Capital City Sports.

Online @
www.DailyGamecock.com



Brian Prasun, a fourth-year electrical engineering student, talks to a Duke energy representative.



Students attending the fair find a limited spectrum of opportunities awaiting them.

Career Fair feels economy's effects

Students find less representatives, open positions in spring round

Chelsey Seidel
THE DAILY GAMECOCK

The pouring rain did not deter USC students from attending the Career Fair on Monday at the Columbia Metropolitan Convention Center.

But it left some like Amanda Grandits discouraged with the state of the economy. Grandits, a fourth-year women's studies

student, was looking for an administrative job at the fair. She hopes to eventually work in the health care industry.

"The recruiter in the seminar was saying that there were seven positions open in a job that 700 people had applied for," Grandits said. "That isn't a very good chance."

Monday's fair — with 48 employers — was slightly smaller than last fall's career fair according to Erica Lake, assistant director of the Career Center.

It featured two different job fairs — the

Career • 2

Rain dampens elections

Soggy weather hinders candidates from rallying voters

Josh Dawsey
ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

The first day of voting for student body elections is typically complete with tents, free food, blaring music and candidates begging for votes.

Not this year.

Instead, a few candidates huddled under trees and haggled for votes with the few students that would stop to talk in the drizzling rain. The rain and near-freezing temperatures kept Russell House staff from assembling the tables on one of the three days candidates are allowed to use the street.

If the weather is good, candidates will be on the street today.

"People aren't really ... stopping to talk to us today," said Anna Hecksher, a volunteer for Justin Cromer's campaign.

Cromer's campaign staff set up shop a few feet away from presidential candidate Patrick Olson. Olson's staff yelled and handed out stickers for most of the morning.

Most people walked by under umbrellas without stopping.

Elections Commissioner adviser Katie Spell said she doesn't think the rain will lower turnout. The commission reminded students to vote inside the Russell House and through an e-mail early Monday morning, she said.

Results will be announced Tuesday afternoon around

5:30 on the second floor of the Russell House. Because of the many candidates running and rules that say a winner must get at least 50 percent of the vote, almost everyone involved says a run-off election for next week is highly probable.

Comments on this story?
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The festivities normally accompanying the first day of elections are rained out by Monday's dreary weather.

Green forum hosts mayoral candidates

Wastewater tops list of environmental concerns Monday

Sara Hartley
STAFF WRITER

The first environmental debate between the City of Columbia's mayoral candidates took place Monday night in USC's Green Quad Learning Center, shedding light on several local problems the candidates all agreed to address.

Hosted by the John Bachman Group of the South Carolina Sierra Club, the forum presented questions regarding major issues such as waste water management, streamside building, recycling, transportation and urban development.

"This is a chance for them to become aware and get informed," said Elaine Cooper, forum organizer and Sierra Club member. "We want to draw attention to these important issues in Columbia."

While the forum drew an audience that exceeded the amount of seats, few USC students attended. One graduate student, Anjana Sukumar Meerm, said she liked all of the candidates and just hopes the environmental issues in Columbia get sorted out.

"All of them have a great background," said the international sustainable development student.

Cooper said the candidates were given the questions in advance and were encouraged to do some research. In answering the questions, the candidates showed support for the environment by discussing potential legislation, funding and legal enforcement to help the city progress.

One of the biggest environmental issues Cooper mentioned is water, specifically the growing problems with bacteria levels and waste water spills.

"Water is most critical and is on everyone's mind," Cooper said.

This was evident both from the candidates' agendas and the fact that two of the five questions dealt with local water-related issues. The first questioned the candidates' plans to improve wastewater standards, while the second stressed the need to support streamside riparian buffers or natural vegetation that filters water and keeps rivers healthy.

While the answers offered slightly different approaches, the eight candidates agreed on the importance of protecting the city's water resources. Several of the candidates, such as Gary Myers, emphasized their personal connections to Columbia's natural environment.

"I don't know how to fix pipes but I know that as a child I used to swim in the river and now my grandson can't," Myers said, emphasizing the need to integrate different parts of the city to solve this problem.

Personal opinions proved to be a theme throughout the evening as each problem was addressed. For example, when asked whether they will require bars and restaurants to recycle, several candidates described memories of being raised to recycle and reuse as much as possible.

"I would love to see the bottle law come back," candidate Joseph Azar said. "We had it when I was a kid and got five cents for bottles."

Other candidates shared the same opinions about providing incentives to recycle. They discussed how the current system in Columbia is inefficient and does not provide convenient ways for bars and restaurants to recycle.

"We need larger containers with less frequent pick-ups so that the system can start to pay for itself," candidate Steve Benjamin said.

Forum • 2



Jeremy Aaron / THE DAILY GAMECOCK

Columbia's mayoral candidates gather Monday night at USC's Green Quad to debate pressing environmental issues.



Jeremy Aaron / THE DAILY GAMECOCK

The forum, hosted by the John Bachman Group, focuses on streamside building, wastewater management and recycling.

Career • Continued from 1

Career Fest and the Science Engineering and Technology Fair. About 1,000 students came for Career Fest, and another 500 to 600 students attended the Science Engineering and Technology Fair.

A wide variety of corporations were present including Target, Pepsi Bottling Group and BB&T. Each company’s booth displayed information about their company and representatives fielded questions from students all day.

Paul Kennington and Jordan Sanbul stood inside Krispy Kreme’s booth decorated with donuts. They were looking for students to hire for a six-month management-training program, after which the new employee would be placed in a store.

“We look for someone who is outgoing, with any major and all types of experience,” Kennington said.

Krispy Kreme’s booth advertised “excellent starting salary, full benefits, paid vacation and a 401k savings plan.”

Despite the current state of the economy, Krispy Kreme’s representatives insisted that the company had not been affected.

People are always going to eat donuts, Kennington said.

“A lot of companies are having to

downsize, but we’re growing,” Sanbul said.

Telogical Systems, a two-part research and technology company, Telogical Systems conducts research for companies like AT&T. They were looking to recruit research analysts, which Scott Bittinger, account manager at Telogical Systems, called “the foundation of the company.”

Bittinger said it was a great chance to “get your roots in the company” and added that although the company has been around for ten years, it still has a small business feel.

Tom Merrow, an employee at Telogical Systems, said many college students do not realize the spectrum of opportunity until they come to the career fair. As far as the economy is concerned, “Our business has been growing and we have been hiring through the recession,” Merrow said.

Cory Siedler, a third-year finance student, stood patiently in line waiting for his turn to enter the career fair. He is interested in personal or corporate financial planning and would ideally like to work for Wells Fargo.

“It’s either going to happen or not going to happen,” Seidler said. “There is no reason to worry.”

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Forum • Continued from 1

Columbia’s economic state worked its way into the discussion throughout the forum. While the candidates all support improvements in recycling and public transportation, they often touched on the need to be economically practical.

“We need to work on projects that are on the books before taking on new ones,” Kirkman Finlay said, though he does support plans to make the city more bike and pedestrian-friendly.

The Complete Streets resolution was the main issue in the transportation category, and if passed by the City of Columbia it will require there to be more

bike paths. Benjamin sees this as an issue that feeds into the larger vision of being a healthier city.

To close the forum, each candidate stressed their commitment to improve the city and address current environmental problems. The other candidates include Sparkle Clark, Irwin Wilson, and Aaron Johnson.

“We have a lot of catching up to do, but with leadership we can do it,” Benjamin said.

Comments on this story?
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GAMECOCK OF THE WEEK

Blake Elder

Recent graduate founds Student Total Discount

Sara Hartley
STAFF WRITER

A recent USC graduate, Blake Elder has now entered the one place where a lot of college students don’t want to journey: the real world.

His creative entrepreneurship, however, sets him apart from many of the new alumni who went straight to graduate school, a desk job or even back home.

“I always thought it would be cool to run your own business,” Elder said.

The investment and finance student that had the idea to start a business last fall is now in the process of developing it.

Student Total Discount offers college students a way to get a variety of discounts through one simple card rather than relying on coupons that are often geared for two

people.

“I started going around to restaurants back in November,” said Elder, who graduated in December. “I thought it would be nice to have a card for an individual person.”

Elder now has 13 restaurants and five merchants in Columbia signed on to his plan. Each offers their own discount to cardholders. One of the participating restaurants is Saki Tumi, located at 807 Gervais St. The grill and sushi bar offers cardholders 15 percent off meals, excluding alcohol and other discounts.

Wayne Klein, one of the owners of Saki Tumi in the Vista, said he heard about the idea for Student Total Discount when Elder called the restaurant last fall.

“I liked his approach and passed him on to one of our marketing directors,” Klein said.

While the restaurant already offers a 15 percent discount for USC alumni, Klein thinks the cards will be a good way to reach more college students.

Many staff members are USC students, so they are telling their friends about the discount.

At a cost of \$10, the cards are affordable for students and Elder thinks they are perfect for the college-age crowd since they provide good deals.

The first round of cards expires in August because Elder would like to get them in sync with the academic school year. The next cycle will last for a full year, expiring August 2011.

Elder estimated that about 75 cards have been sold so far, and he is working on promoting the idea. He has visited several fraternities and sororities, passed out flyers and created a Facebook advertisement to get the word out.

While he currently has friends helping him sell the cards, Elder is trying to figure out a system for how to continue expanding the business. He also said he is open to suggestions for other places, as he would

Grad • 3


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like to continue finding restaurants and stores to participate.

"I didn't charge the businesses, so they have nothing to lose," Elder said.

Examples of local favorites that already participate are the Wild Hare Sports Café, Beezer's, Pops Pizza and Sammi's Deli. There are also stores involved such as Island Tan, M Boutique and Miss Cocky. The discounts vary from percentages off entire bills to deals on individual

items.

Though it seems like business would have always been in Elder's plans, he actually has an interest in dentistry. After originally majoring in biology, he switched to investment and finance to have a background in business in case dental school didn't work out. The native of Chevy Chase, Maryland plans to apply to dental schools in Washington D.C. next year, but said he would like to have someone continue running Student Total Discount in his place.

Elder's situation is proof that you don't have to have your life completely planned before graduating college. But when you do leave USC, a little creativity can be just what you need to take on the real world.

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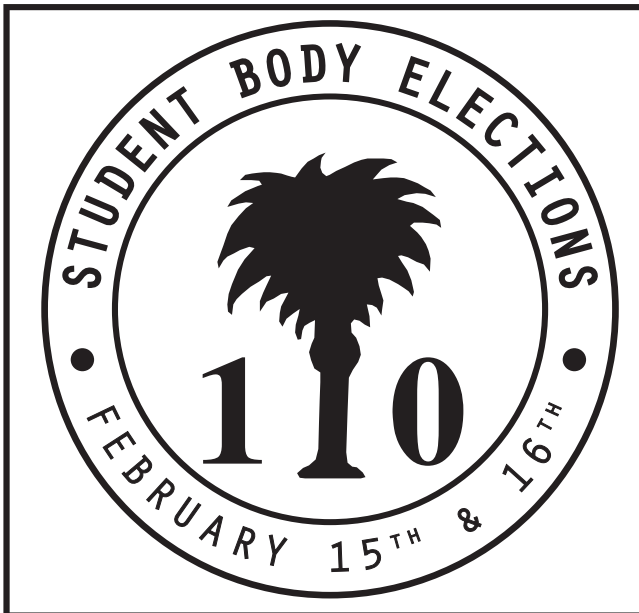
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Out-of-state pupils improve University

“Wow, I didn’t know you were from New Jersey!”

Phrases like these used to be common at USC, but more and more, students from far-flung origins are becoming the norm, not the exception.

According to an article in The State, “Colleges’ out-of-state trend raises red flag” by Wayne Washington, less than a quarter of USC students were out-of-state in 2000. In 2009, a third were out-of-state. In nine years, USC has witnessed the most dramatic decrease in percentage of in-state students out of every four-year school in South Carolina, save for The Citadel. Percentages are also decreasing in MUSC and Clemson.

For USC, which has been dubbed the state’s “flagship university” and has intentionally lowered standards to admit more in-state students, this is a surprising development. But it is one that is good for the University, as well as South Carolina. Not only do out-of-state students enhance elusive factors like “diversity” and “culture,” they raise concrete factors such as average SAT scores and GPAs. Also, that higher out-of-state tuition adds much needed funding to our university, allowing the in-state students to live large while keeping their tuitions low.

Of course, the public universities of South Carolina have an obligation to serve the students of South Carolina, and this development seems to me an about-face from USC’s previous mission. But there are other public, in-state universities that South Carolina students can attend. If this were New Jersey, we would be exclaiming that public universities need to lower their standards to admit those who didn’t get into Princeton or Rutgers. But this is South Carolina: out of all states, we most need a great university filled with the best and brightest, and that means admitting superior students from across the globe. We need a Harvard, other than Hillbilly Harvard in Clemson.

“Students from far-flung origins are becoming the norm, not the exception.”

“Wow, I didn’t know you were from New Jersey!”

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Valentine’s Day is one day a year, do the math

Holiday builds unrealistic expectations, cannot be sustained for entire relationship

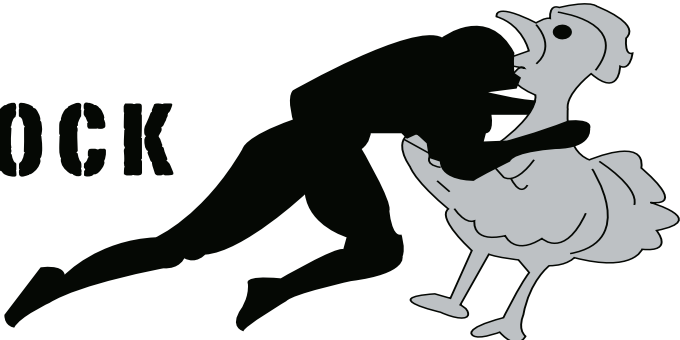
“Every day is Valentine’s Day for us.”

Yes, this mushy, overly-sentimental sentence actually emerged from one USC student’s mouth. This sentence makes me fear for the relationships of Valentine’s-Day-loving couples everywhere. I have some important news for everyone that may come as a surprise. Valentine’s Day is over. It comes and goes once a year and should be forgotten just as quickly as it was remembered.

Many couples go so overboard for Valentine’s Day that, once it comes and goes, many are left with unrealistic expectations for their relationship. Every day simply cannot be like Valentine’s Day, and, in order to realize this, all one must do is take a look at the raw numbers.

1,400: The amount of calories in that cute little box of chocolates he surprised you with. Now, the Tuesday after the big day, you are wondering why you cannot seem to button your jeans. Of course, it was the sweetest

THE COCKBLOCK



Buying pot doesn’t create violence

“Most of these students recognized that their use of pot fed the violence in Mexico, yet they failed to take any responsibility for it.” The majority of marijuana consumed by Americans, and others, is not grown in Mexico. Eighty percent of the marijuana consumed in the United States is grown here, and the other 20 percent comes from Jamaica, Mexico and other small countries. Us buying marijuana does not contribute near as much as Ryan Quinn, AKA “Newbert,” claimed it to be to the violence in Mexico; I will therefore take no responsibility for this. Why are we not making cigarettes illegal, when there is direct cause of cigarette smoke and secondhand smoke killing millions of people every year? The “addictiveness” of marijuana is almost that of blowing up a balloon — it’s not addicting at all. As for me rather saving people’s lives over smoking marijuana, if I wanted to do that then I would be a med student. I am not looking to save peoples lives; I just like getting high after I do all my homework, and then play hours of FIFA. I also contribute to the local businesses with my munchie purchases. How this is contributing to the drug cartel, I will never know. I’m buying my weed locally not some s--- ass Mexican dirt weed with pesticides and them pissin’ on it.”

be contributing to violence in Mexico if it’s not out of your backyard. Also, Secretary of Homeland Security Janet Napolitano said she is “committed to addressing the threat of cartel violence in Mexico as a top homeland security priority for the United States,” in a testimony before the Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee. The best thing about my facts are that they are cited; I don’t know where the reader got these facts, but I have a feeling that the influence of a certain drug may have clouded his or her reason.

Even more ridiculous than the statistics is the justification for not taking any responsibility. Though the reader downplays the significance of Mexican drug cartels in the U.S.’s drug addiction,



Ryan Quinn
Second-year print journalism student

he or she does not completely deny it. The reader is comfortable with taking 20 percent of the blame for Mexico’s violence. I know Dr. Mengele contributed to less than 20 percent of the deaths in the Holocaust, but I don’t consider him a good guy.

I agree with the reader that marijuana is not addictive in the physiological sense, but my argument wasn’t that marijuana was bad for you, or that legal substances like alcohol or cigarettes were any better for you. I argued that U.S. pot consumption hurts Mexicans, an argument that is still unrefuted. The reader then goes on to say he doesn’t care about saving lives because he or she isn’t a med student. Even if you aren’t actively saving or ending people’s lives, you shouldn’t feel fine with passively hurting them.

Finally, the reader states that he or she just likes to get high after homework and play hours of FIFA, which proves that only incredibly high people could enjoy such an awful sports game. He or she then tops it off this magnum opus with some racial slurs. In all, the reader still doesn’t understand how his or her weed purchases are contributing to the drug cartels.

Media heed viewers’ itch for violence

Coverage of Olympian’s death conveys problem

On Friday, a life was claimed on the controversial Whistler Sliding Centre. Nodar Kumaritashvili of Georgia suffered a fatal luge accident during one of his training runs.

During the short two years of its existence, the course has earned many critics for being too fast and potentially deadly. Unfortunately, that speculation came true.

Shortly after the accident, press coverage repeatedly aired the disturbing video of the victim’s body careening off the track and into a steel



Dan Solley
Fourth-year pre-law student

beam near the end of the course. It is appalling that in this day and age, that type of imagery is necessary to create a compelling news story. Long gone are the days of respectable journalism where commentators and anchors reported with compassion and empathy. Where ratings are the name of the game, journalists must change their strategy to entice their viewers.

Unfortunately, our society has gained an insatiable appetite for violence, gore and shocking videos. News stories have followed suit and often focus on all things negative in our neighborhoods and across the globe. This is evidenced in any local newscast where the stories of fatal accidents, murders and rapes precede stories of community service, worship and accomplishments. It is hard to blame the news industry, since it is following the rudimentary economic model of supply and demand.

If we lived in a utopian society, there would be more stories that “warm the heart” and make us “feel all fuzzy inside.” Until that society becomes a reality, we can expect to be bombarded with images that cause us to cringe. We can do our part in changing news stories from the negative to the positive. Demand that journalists cover the good and ignore the bad. Quit watching shows such as “Most Shocking Videos of Police Beating Kittens,” or change the channel when your local news anchor starts to cover the most recent murder spree. Once their ratings are affected, maybe we will experience a change in their lineup. Until then, I will continue to watch the competitiveness of the Olympics with Nodar’s family in my prayers.

IT’S YOUR RIGHT

The goal of The Daily Gamecock’s Viewpoints page is to stimulate discussion in the University of South Carolina community. All published authors are expected to provide logical arguments to back their views.

The Daily Gamecock encourages readers to voice opinions and offers three methods of expression: letters to the editor, guest columns and feedback on dailygamecock.com.

Letters and guest columns should be submitted via e-mail to gamecockeditor@sc.edu. Letters must be 200 to 300 words in length and include the author’s name,

year in school and area of study.

We also invite student leaders and USC faculty members to submit guest columns. Columnists should keep submissions to about 500 words in length and include the author’s name and position. Guest columns are limited to three per author per semester.

The editor reserves the right to edit and condense submissions for length and clarity, or not publish at all.

All submissions become the property of The Daily Gamecock and must conform to the legal standards of USC Student Media.

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CORRECTIONS

If you find an error in today’s edition of The Daily Gamecock, let us know about it. E-mail sagckvew@mailbox.sc.edu and we will print the correction in our next issue.

Burritos face off in Bite-down

Chloe Gould
THE DAILY GAMECOCK

Chipotle, Qdoba foiled by Moe's convenience, affordable prices, greater variety

Moe's:
The clear victor in the Burrito Bite-down and conveniently closest to campus, Moe's Southwest Grill makes the most out of the art of burrito. With the options of sirloin steak, chicken, ground beef, pulled pork and tofu, everything is always grilled and seasoned to perfection. And, as much as we love the "burrito babies" that struggle to stay wrapped up inside of their tin foil, Moe's does the best offering junior sizes. The Homewrecker, Triple Lindy and Joey Bag of Donuts are the three Moe's burrito classics, with the Moo Moo Mr. Cow the cheaper, fun-sized favorite.

Moe's also offers more options than its Southwest grill counterparts, with tacos, quesadillas, fajitas and salads rounding out their menu. Definitely the most vegetarian-friendly of the three, with the tofu option, a wide variety of salads and the Art Vandalay burrito. Moe's is also the most compatible with the

college student's budget. Free chips and choice of mouth-watering salsas with each meal gives the grill a head above the rest, with Moe's Monday and the legendary \$5 burrito, chips and drink enough to draw the largest of crowds.

Chipotle:
The premier Chipotle Mexican Grill of Columbia, located in Trenholm Plaza on Forest Drive, was one of the most anticipated "restaurant" openings in the city. With a welcome week full of free burritos, T-shirts and giveaway contests, students across campus were ready to get a taste of what was sure to be Moe's biggest competition.

Although Chipotle is the number one burrito shack in other states, Columbia's just isn't up to par. With a much more basic menu, offering the options of burrito, burrito bowl, tacos or salad, the lack of variety is usually met with unmatchable deliciousness.

Differing from Moe's in their use of white basmati rice, with a touch of cilantro, and a blend of jack and white cheddar cheeses, the two really have completely different tastes. Offering chicken, steak, carnitas and barbacoa, the only veggie options are a pretty basic salad, topped with the undeniably delicious chipotle-honey vinaigrette, or a fajita burrito or burrito bowl, full of grilled onions and peppers.

When just sticking with the basic burrito, Moe's and Chipotle are pretty comparably priced, hovering around \$6. But, Chipotle adds on the dollars, charging \$1.65 for one dollop of the admittedly tasty guacamole, and of course, the extra charge for those sides of salsa and bag of chips, which are worth it for that added hint of lime.

bringing in that wide variety of our favorite Southwest grill.

The least-known in the Burrito Bite-down, the closest Qdoba hides across from Target in Woodhill on Garner's Ferry. It incorporates the same white basmati rice and jack and white cheddar cheese, automatically hinting towards a familiar flavor. Upon first glance, it does come off as a Chipotle wannabe, expanding on the Mexican grill's tried and true taste.

With the classics still in tow, Qdoba does switch things up a bit with a ground beef option for their burritos. Their three-cheese queso is also a favorite burrito-topper, giving Moe's Monterey-Jack dip a run for its money, and making Chipotle only wish they had a queso to throw in the mix.

Sticking with the simplicities of the all-veggie diet, the vegetarian burrito, which features a whole lot of guacamole, and the fajita veggies are up for grabs. There is also, however, a grilled veggie burrito with zucchini, squash and bell peppers, as well as a "Mexican Gumbo" that is their tortilla soup with a few extras. And, just as at Chipotle, you can "go naked" with a burrito bowl.

Qdoba goes beyond the burritos with quesadillas, taco salads, nachos and that famous tortilla soup. The biggest surprise, upping both Moe's and Chipotle, is Qdoba's breakfast menu, which features both breakfast burritos and quesadillas. With the options of grilled chicken or spicy Mexican sausage, the ranchero sauce or queso tops off the morning treat.

Comments on this story?
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Courtesy of ereleases.com

THAT'S ENTERTAINMENT!

Nominees campaign for Oscars

Jimmy Gilmore
THE MIX EDITOR

Academy Award contenders launch strategies for winning hearts, votes

For most viewers, the Oscar ceremony is only about who shows up wearing what, and who's name is inside the envelope. With the final ballots mailed to Academy voters last Wednesday, the stars and producers of the nominated films will be upping the ante on their campaigns, doing everything in their power to nab the industry's highest honor.

Winning an Oscar is, in a lot of ways, like winning a political election. It involves convincing a pool of 6,000 people to vote for you. As many lament year after year, the Oscars really aren't about what's "best," but what can be framed the best.

Take last year's eight-time Oscar winner, "Slumdog Millionaire," which won honors for Picture, Director and Adapted Screenplay. For Fox Searchlight, that movie's victory was all about framing it as an underdog story, even after it had won a majority of precursor awards and securely become the frontrunner. Focusing on the social issues of the Indian slums as opposed to the romance aspects of the story didn't hurt, either.

Or try to rewind to four years ago, where "Little Miss Sunshine" and "The Departed" were up for Best Picture. The producers on "Sunshine" focused on its status as "the little independent movie that could."

The team behind "The Departed," conversely, put all the attention on director Martin Scorsese, who had yet to win an Oscar. Come awards night, Scorsese's movie waltzed away with four wins, including a first-time win for the director and Best

Picture.

So with three weeks left until the big ceremony, how will producers and actors try to push themselves over the edge and keep themselves in the spotlight long enough?

Best Picture frontrunner "The Hurt Locker" has borrowed a page from "Slumdog;" its filmmakers consistently talk about how they didn't expect the film to do well, and they remain humble about its success, letting the film speak for itself — sometimes the best campaign strategy of all.

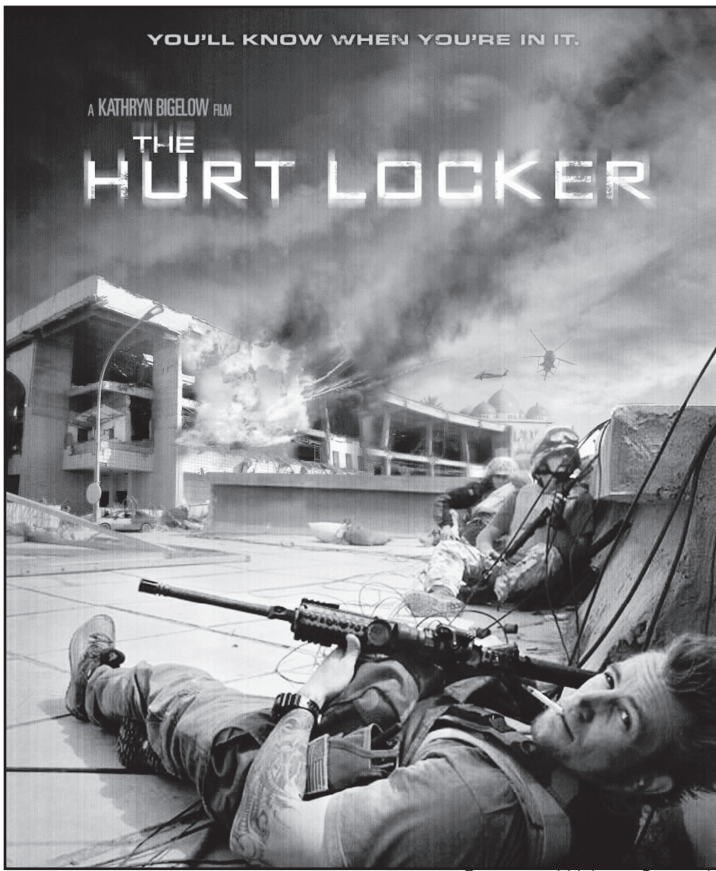
James Cameron's "Avatar," however, hasn't picked up quite the brass in other awards shows despite winning the Golden Globe last month. Its producers are using its self-proclaimed status as a "game-changer," its revolutionary technology and its emergence as a global phenomenon to help win over older voters who may be skeptical or indifferent to the sci-fi epic.

Quentin Tarantino's "Inglourious Basterds," which did great business back in its August theatrical run, is perhaps one of the hardest sells with its hard-hitting violence and bent on historical revisionism. The film's producer, Harvey Weinstein, is trying to side-step the violence by focusing all the attention on Tarantino, letting the fast-talking personality appear on any talk show to discuss the merits of his film.

But when it comes to Oscar, the individual performers are also pulling all stops to win voters' hearts. "The Blind Side" star Sandra Bullock, a first-time nominee, has leveled discussions of her film around middle-American values in her effort to win against much-loved veteran actress Meryl Streep.

"The Hurt Locker" star Jeremy Renner, also a first-time nominee, is out to win people over with his charm, using daytime talk shows to show a not-so-intense side of himself. He faces stiff competition in a Best Actor race dominated by Jeff Bridges and George Clooney.

In the weeks and days leading up to the big night, prime-time



Courtesy of Voltage Pictures

The frontrunner for Best Picture, "The Hurt Locker," is one of the few films not drawing on a gimmick.

television will inevitably be flooded with promotions for the nominated films. When the time comes, it's worth thinking about how the commercials are framed, where the focus is and what stops the marketing team is pulling to nab the little golden guy.

That's Entertainment.

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ARIES You surprise yourself with the ideas and emotions flowing into your projects.

TAURUS Surprise yourself with a new twist on an old theme. Get out of the rut you've worn.

GEMINI Show your face early as you develop an idea that has been rolling around in your head.

CANCER Think early and long before you make decisions that cannot be reversed.

LEO Take all the time you need to evaluate creative ideas that surface as you go through the day.

VIRGO Reveal your creative genius by utilizing an image from a dream to enhance a presentation.

LIBRA The key to progress is imagination and creativity. Don't worry about the finished product.

SCORPIO You get a bit of breathing room where family issues are concerned.

SAGITTARIUS Household discussions focus on immediate needs. Spend money now to save it later.

CAPRICORN Sometime today you change your thinking. This will interrupt the flow, but it gets you where you want to be.

AQUARIUS Money arrives from a peculiar source. Verify the amount before spending.

PISCES Your partner wants to take the reins and keep them. Let it happen.

Calendar of Events

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

What: Student Government Campaigning
When: 10:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.
Where: Greene Street

What: Share Meeting
When: 6:30 p.m.
Where: Russell House Dining Room

What: Pastafarians Meeting
When: 6:30 p.m.
Where: LeConte 112

What: RHA Senate
When: 7 p.m.
Where: RH 309

What: Hillel Weekly Meeting
When: 7:30 p.m.
Where: RH 303

What: ISA Meeting
When: 7:30 p.m.
Where: South Quad Lounge

What: Flying Gamecock Club
When: 8 p.m.
Where: 8 p.m.

SPORTS SCHEDULE

Women's Tennis
Winthrop
2 p.m.
Wednesday
USC Fieldhouse

Men's Basketball
Arkansas
9 p.m.
Wednesday
Fayetteville, Ark.

The Scene

AN EDUCATION
9 p.m., \$6.50
Nickelodeon Theatre, 937 Main St.

ABOUT A BOY and HIGH FIDELITY

TODAY

USC SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA PRESENTS ANGELA CHO, VIOLIN
7:30 p.m., \$5 in advance/\$8 day of performance
Koger Center for the Arts, 1051 Greene St.

OCEAN IS THEORY, NINEBALL, LEO, AVINCE
7 p.m., \$5 over 21/\$8 under 21
New Brookland Tavern, 122 State St.

FIREFLY SWEET TEA ACOUSTIC RIVALRY
8 p.m., free
The White Mule, 1530 Main St.

TOMORROW

CROWNS
7:30 p.m., \$15
Trustus Theatre, 520 Lady St.

JANGEUN BAE
7:30 p.m., free
USC School of Music Recital Hall, 813 Assembly St.

GHOSTS OF THE GREAT HIGHWAY, THE RESTORATION, DANCE COMMANDER, AND I IN THE SKY
7 p.m., \$7
New Brookland Tavern, 122 State St.

Crossword

Edited by Wayne Robert Williams

02/16/10

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Sudoku By The Mephram Group

02/16/10

Level 1 2 3 4

How to Play
Complete the grid so each row, column AND 3-by-3 box (in bold borders) contains every digit 1 to 9.

Solution from 02/15/10

2	6	3	8	7	9	1	4	5
9	4	7	5	1	3	6	8	2
1	8	5	4	2	6	9	3	7
4	2	9	3	6	8	5	7	1
8	5	6	7	9	1	4	2	3
7	3	1	2	4	5	8	9	6
5	9	4	1	3	7	2	6	8
3	1	2	6	8	4	7	5	9
6	7	8	9	5	2	3	1	4

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1 Western Florida city
6 Rice-
11 Air gun ammo
14 Catherine of "Beetlejuice"
15 Binary system digits
16 Exercise unit
17 *Relaxing soak
19 Brew in a yard
20 "Just suspected!"
21 "... have you ___ wool?"
22 Company whose calling is calling
23 Bio kin
26 *Great concert turnout
29 Sympathetic connection
31 Cease
32 Blood system letters
33 Confirmation, e.g.
35 Outperforms
39 *Many an exec's remuneration
43 Work with hair
44 Pre-coll. catchall
45 Bit of Internet mirth
46 Binary system digits
49 Pulls an all-nighter
51 *Unlucky selection
55 Course with many problems
56 Hip-swiveling dance
57 Beachgoer's shirt
58 Rioting group
60 Former California fort
61 What you can say about sketches, and about the answers to the starred clues
66 NFL's Cardinals, on scoreboards
67 Free-for-all
68 McDermott of "The Practice"
69 Soap-making need
70 "___ my case"
71 Figure out

DOWN

1 Heavy weight
2 Bigeye or yellowfin, at a sushi bar
3 Cheese partner
4 Radio signal booster
5 Sighs of contentment
6 HIV-treating drug
7 Masonryreinforcing rod
8 Tree-dwelling apes
9 "Almost ready—be patient"
10 Suffix with Brit
11 "Top Chef" network
12 Downstairs, at sea
13 Blow, as dough
18 Well driller
22 Skin care maven
Adrien
23 Uncouth
24 Good thing to kick
25 Hobbyist's glue
27 Westernmost Aleutian island
28 Kurt of Nirvana
30 Point in the right direction

Solution for 02/15/10

T	O	S	E	A		C	A	H	N		A	L	A	S	
A	B	C	T	V		O	R	E	O		Z	E	N	O	
P	I	A	N	O		P	A	R	T	I	T	I	O	N	
A	T	L	A	N	T	A	B	R	A	V	E				
S	S	E		L	O	Y		O	A	K	L	E	Y		
			C	E	O		F	I	N	N	I	D	A		
			W	H	A	T	E	L	S	E	I	S	N	E	W
S	T	Y	E			C	I	A		E	E	N	S		
W	E	A	R	E		T	H	E	W	O	R	L	D		
A	L	T		W	O	O	D		A	O	L				
P	E	T	R	E	L			A	T	M		F	O	B	
			A	L	D	O	U	S	H	U	X	L	E	Y	
G	O	O	D		L	O	O	K	S		L	E	A	S	T
E	L	B	A		F	L	E	E		U	N	I	T	E	
M	E	I	R		F	A	S	T		S	O	R	E	S	

34 Preceding, in poetry
36 Tex-Mex dip
37 "Rainbow" fish
38 Mythical air dweller
40 Regional plant life
41 Corsica neighbor
42 Skeptic's demand
47 Her book is read during the Jewish holiday Purim
48 "Remington ___"
50 Pre-fetus stage
51 Shallow sea area
52 Speed things up

53 Song from the past
54 Three-time N.L. stolen base champ José
59 Gambler's concerns
61 Pa. plant in the 1979 news
62 Like Gen. Powell
63 Every last one
64 Sound file suffix
65 L.A.-to-Helena dir.



The softball team gets off to a strong start over the weekend, winning two games and scoring 17 runs. Two other games were cancelled due to snowfall.

USC HOPES TO CONTINUE STREAK

Carolina softball prepares to defend untarnished record, keep offense hot as it takes on Longwood for first time

Ed Neuhaus
THE DAILY GAMECOCK

After snow disrupted plans for a weekend full of Gamecock softball, Carolina takes to Beckham Field today for a doubleheader against Longwood.

The Gamecocks (2-0) had two games of their Palmetto State Showdown this past weekend cancelled by the snowfall that blanketed the region Friday night. The team looks to get in more playing time against the Lancers (0-0), who were to have opened their season with a doubleheader against Campbell on Saturday but had those games cancelled as well.

Precipitation doesn't look to be a problem today, as the forecast calls for sunny skies with a high of 44 degrees. Longwood will hope the cold weather can help cool down the Gamecocks' bats, as Carolina exploded for 17 runs in two games on Sunday against Coastal Carolina and Winthrop.

Junior first baseman Laura Mendes looks

to continue her solid offensive performance today, as she enters today's doubleheader with a batting average of .625 through her first eight at-bats in this 2010 season. Mendes had four RBI in the Gamecocks' two wins on Sunday.

Sophomore outfielder Kaitlin Westfall looks to break out of an early slump for the Gamecocks. Westfall had only one hit in seven at-bats on Sunday, but she did score a run and earn an RBI.

Longwood is led by senior outfielder Camille Ketsdever, who topped the team with a .345 average last season. The Lancers, who operate as an independent, were able to cobble together a 23-23 record last year, including an 11-10 mark on the road. The Lancers were able to compete down the stretch, going 13-9 in their final 22 games, though they finished the season being swept in a three-game series by No. 1 Florida,

a team which ended up advancing to the Women's College World Series.

The Gamecocks enter the doubleheader with hopes of gaining more experience before the SEC schedule gears up next month. Carolina is scheduled to play 13 games over the next 13 days, so today's doubleheader marks the beginning of a rigorous stretch of play for Carolina.

Non-conference play was a boon for the Gamecocks last year, as Carolina went 15-3 in non-conference contests last season. That mark also includes an 8-0 record in Columbia. First pitch for the first game of today's doubleheader is scheduled for 3 p.m., with the second game slated for 5:15 p.m.

Comments on this story?
E-mail sagckspt@mailbox.sc.edu

Punishment misses point

Vacating wins cannot change what happened; NCAA policy is a farce

I understand that the National Collegiate Athletic Association is trying to do anything in its power to avoid using the infamous 'Death Penalty' again, anything to prevent another SMU from happening.

But this vacating wins thing?



James Kratch
Second-year print journalism student

I mean, this is potentially the dumbest single thing the NCAA has ever done (until they expand the tournament to 96 teams, that is). It is so illogical, it makes the kid wearing the Speedo at the USC-Georgia game this past weekend look

like a Mensa member.

Just this past week, after a long and drawn-out investigation into academic fraud at Florida State University, the NCAA pencil pushers finally validated and confirmed FSU's guilt after appeal. As a result, FSU is now forced to vacate wins and titles amongst 10 varsity sports where 61 athletes involved in the violations competed, with the highlight of the decision being the 12 football wins between 2006 and 2007 that the Seminoles (and Bobby Bowden) have had wiped off the board.

I've got a few questions. First, what about the fans? Is the NCAA planning on finding each and every man, woman and child that was in attendance at each one of those 12 Seminole triumphs and convincing them they never saw the game? Are they going to utilize the blinding light thing from "Men in Black"?

And how about the players that played in the games? For example, one of the wins Florida State has been forced to vacate is its 44-27 win over UCLA in the 2006 Emerald Bowl. After the game, running back Lorenzo Booker and cornerback Tony Carter were named the offensive and defensive MVPs.

So, have NCAA-sanctioned repo men been sent to their homes to seize the trophies? I mean, since FSU didn't win the Emerald Bowl, their stats shouldn't count, right?

And while we're at it, shouldn't we keep this thing going? I mean, assuming that FSU was like every other football team at any level in America, they probably handed out game balls to deserving players after each of those other 11 wins. I think we need to confiscate those too. Maybe burn them?

Additionally, what about other instances of wins being vacated along the years? Michigan had to vacate all of its 1993-1994 season because of violations. So, technically, they never got to the national championship game that year.

Does that mean Chris Webber gets to vacate his Fab Five? Does that mean the Tie Dye never happened? Does that mean that we've got to retroactively take all the book money Mitch Albom made and give it to charity? What about Memphis hoops a few years back? Did Derrick Rose never exist? Did that dribble-driving behemoth of a team never happen?

Obviously, the answer to all of these questions I've posed is a resounding 'no.' However, the fact remains: forcing teams to vacate wins does nothing besides bump them down a few notches in the official record books. It's a stupid practice. You can't take away what's happened. It only makes the policing of college athletics even more of a farce than it already is.

SEC Power Rankings

This week's standings show little change

James Kratch
ASSISTANT SPORTS EDITOR

1. KENTUCKY
(No Change)

2. VANDERBILT
(No change)

3. TENNESSEE
(No change)

4. FLORIDA
(No Change)

5. MISS. STATE
(Up 1)

6. ARKANSAS
(Down 1)

7. OLE MISS
(Down 1)

8. SOUTH CAROLINA
(Down 1)

9. GEORGIA
(No Change)

10. ALABAMA
(No Change)

11. AUBURN
(No Change)

12. LSU
(No Change)

Comments on this story?
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LAX looks to conquer

Carolina lacrosse team aims to compete on national stage

Justin Wilson
THE DAILY GAMECOCK

The self-proclaimed fastest game on two feet has made its way to Columbia. For the last couple years, South Carolina has put together a club lacrosse team that has grown into a force on the national stage. Coming off an 8-4 performance last season, which included wins over Tennessee and Miami, Carolina is looking to build on its successes and prove itself on the national stage.

Senior captain Hunter Gosnell leads the Gamecocks on the field this year.

"We have a solid team this year," Gosnell said. "We're looking to build on our young talent and dominate the competition."

Carolina opened the season at home in a scrimmage on Feb. 6 with a 20-3 pounding of in-state foe College of Charleston. Six players scored multiple goals for the Gamecocks, including freshman Woody Angle and sophomore Zach Sells. Senior goalie Pete Trieber picked up the win as he was able to limit the Cougars' scoring, giving up only two goals and saving three shots.

Confidence is a big part of the mentality on this year's squad. The players feel as though they can compete with the best.

"We can beat anybody," Sells said. "We have the skills and ability to win every game we play this season."

Not only do the Gamecocks bring a

fast-paced, strategic offense to the table, but they also have a dominating defense. A key component of that defense is sophomore Mike DelBianco.

"We have guys that are not only fast, but strong and aggressive, which really gives us an edge when it comes to battling for ground balls," DelBianco stated.

This past weekend, the Gamecocks traveled to North Carolina to compete against N.C. State and East Carolina. In a hard-fought battle in the snow in Raleigh, Carolina jumped out to a 5-1 lead going into the second half before the Wolfpack were able to answer with a run of their own and win the game 9-8. The Gamecocks dominated the game physically for the first half, but due to impressive goaltending by N.C. State, Carolina was not able to do much damage down the stretch and fell on the road.

Due to inclement weather across most of the south this past weekend, the game in Greenville against ECU was cancelled and will be rescheduled at a later time.

The Gamecocks compete at the Division 1 level in the Southeastern Lacrosse Conference (SELC), which includes schools such as Clemson, Kentucky and Virginia Tech. The Gamecocks will next face off against Limestone College in a scrimmage this Sunday. Their next home contest will be against divisional competitor Wake Forest on Feb. 26 at the Strom Thurmond practice fields. The team's full schedule is available at www.gamecockslacrosse.com.

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